



# BIRCHETT PARK PLAN

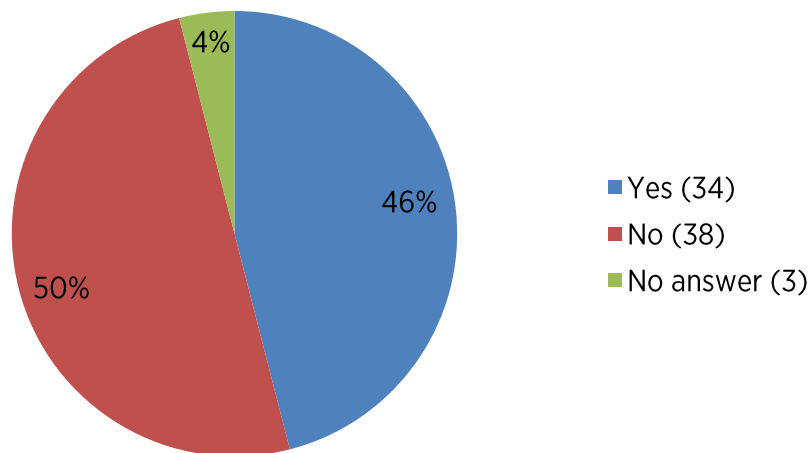
## PUBLIC INPUT SUMMARY

### Overview

A public meeting was held on October 17, 2017 to get feedback on Birchett Park. Residents in the area of University to the Railroad, Hardy to McAllister (1345 households) were invited to attend. Forty-four residents signed in at the meeting. Surveys were available at the meeting and online from October 17 through October 29 2017. A total of 74 survey responses were received; 19 at the meeting and 55 online.

### Survey Responses

#### 1. Do you currently visit or utilize Birchett Park?



#### If yes, how?

1. Sometimes I walk through during evening walks.
2. Very occasionally walk through it on area morning walks.
3. I've lived here for 40 years and I've never seen anyone there except when they were jaywalking to get to campus.
4. I drive by it almost daily. Nice splash of greenery.
5. I like to look at the park as I walk, but if you manage this park as you seem to want to do it will not be an improvement.
6. I walk with a neighbor by the park daily, Monday thru Friday. I drive by the park, multiple times a day.
7. I walk to the park, crossing Apache Blvd. to cut roses, with permission from the Birchett family and city work crews.
8. Pass by in car almost daily thinking "what a waste of water"
9. Hate auto exhaust so never go there.
10. Walk by and ride by
11. Travel through. Enjoy the view from our house
12. Usually enjoy it every day for 63 years
13. Walk by and cross at Mill and 13th street 3x a week
14. I live across the street. My home office window faces directly to the park. It's been more of a visual thing for me as I love the outdoors and I like to see all the Green in the park.
15. I trim the roses. I try to get there before the city crew comes to butcher the bushes.
16. I walk with my neighbor past the park daily
17. Walk through on way to downtown area

18. Well, I don't go IN the Park, but ride alongside it many days a week.
19. Walk, bike
20. Bike or drive by it
21. Walk and bike through weekly
22. Walk, sit, exercise, watch the birds, watch the traffic go by
23. Occasional stops while cycling home.
24. I live in the Mitchell Park neighborhood and walk through Birchett Park going to Gammage occasionally.
25. I bicycle through the Mill/13th St intersection regularly.
26. Walking through and around it, and driving by and appreciating it for what it is.
27. Occasionally when biking home from the business at Mill or Ash and University.
28. The kids and I stop for a rest in the shade. They like to explore around the planters etc & play make believe.
29. I like that there is a seat to sit on.
30. Lounging and playing with my dog. I live nearby.
31. I walk to the park area when visiting ASU / ASU Gammage
32. Walk or bike past it en route to campus/Apache Blvd. on occasion
33. The park is incredibly small. Can it even be considered a park?
34. Shady summer refuge!
35. As a bike rider to take a break on long rides.
36. Resting spot, or during lunch breaks as a nice spot to eat.
37. Walking
38. In the 20 years I've lived in downtown Tempe I have only witnessed one person using that park. They were sleeping in a sleeping bag.
39. I do not utilize the park, but I drive by it several times a day.
40. I walk there because it's the closest green public area from my house and I use it to relax.
41. Good
42. I enjoy the birds here I walk from Maple Ash area
43. N/A
44. I pass through it on my way to downtown Tempe or on rides through ASU.
45. Rarely, but on occasion to see what's going on there, check out conditions.
46. I enjoy the visual break the park provides.
47. I appreciate the vegetation when I pass by.

## **2. What elements or features within the park hold special meaning for you?**

1. None
2. Sorry to say that there's little there that holds meaning or interest to me.
3. I like the roses and the rocks and the grass.
4. The rose bushes, which have been seriously neglected in recent years, are very special to me. It is a peaceful, tranquil area.
5. The park being lowered into the ground is effective. It cuts the noise of the traffic that is always there, offering some relief.
6. The roses that were meaningful to Mrs. Birchett are not cared for. Roses are beautiful and they hold meaning. If cared for and allowed to thrive they would add color and scent.
7. I have lived near Birchett Park for more than a decade. I barely notice it. It is usually seen while driving by at high speeds. As a pedestrian I rarely think about visiting the park. It is surrounded by traffic on all sides and does not connect well to other nearby destinations.
8. Water park for kids
9. ASU- Gammage emphasis
10. Natural area
11. Close location to campus is ideal.
12. Traffic circle is very creative and important. Shade is critical. Possible performance space is attractive.
13. Never been before
14. Grass, because it uses so much water.
15. None

16. Location
17. As is, none have meaning. The concepts presented seem to be planning too much to be done within the very limited space
18. Nice greenery
19. I look at the park currently from afar. I don't really notice much about it other than trash and personal items that get left behind. it often appears to be neglected/
20. Green space
21. The roses-the magnolia tree, the pine tree that was planted as a Christmas tree when Kiwanis sold xmas trees there
22. Greenery-trees
23. Anything growing in it
24. The rose bushes which the city crew continues to destroy
25. It's a calm space-view of Gammage from 13th street
26. I have heard the Roses are important. The feature that I like the most is the fact that it is a buffer.
27. Rose bushes
28. Green space
29. The roses-plant better ones aka MCC rose garden
30. History of Frank Lloyd Wright's inspiration for Gammage including the curve/park on route needs improvement
31. Trees, shrubs, roses (which look a little sad these days), birds
32. I like that it has been a designated grassy area both visually and as a rest/reading area
33. Location
34. Nothing at this point.
35. Trees, water feature(s), amphitheater like space.
36. The calm of the park in the midst of the hustle and bustle, as well as the green and flowers.
37. That it is open space, and full of greenery. I also like that it does not block visibility to the beautiful Gammage building.
38. None
39. The beautiful trees that are currently there and mature. They are gorgeous in the spring in full flower. Losing those trees to wait for others to mature seems wasteful. I seem to recall being told that the land was donated to the city on the condition that it be used for park space and if that was not to happen that the land would revert to the donor's family.
40. The rose bushes. The low impact of the site, it is not a distraction.
41. I like parks and public spaces in general. I think they're an important part of the community.
42. Position of the park to enjoy the FLW Architecture of Gammage.
43. Trees, open green space.
44. The trees
45. none
46. The benches and the trees
47. The unique benches
48. History of "triangle park", and as part of the neighborhood community.
49. The whole thing. Leave it alone.
50. None. I have never found a use for the park.

**3. What elements or features could be added to the park that would draw you in to use the space more frequently?**

1. Easier access, water features, sculpture
2. Please don't ruin this park by making it look like a good place for homeless people to stay. They already have a great location at Daley Park
3. Nothing.
4. It would be awesome as a mobile food truck location.
5. Seating/tables for picnic
6. Safer entrance- traffic circle important addition

7. It seems a logical place for sculptures--esp. large monumental sculptures. For instance, moving John Nelson's tall sculpture <http://www.downtowntempe.com/go/above-the-crowd> to this location would better demonstrate its scale and truly stand above the area. But why stop with that one sculpture, it's big enough to slowly gather more in the future. Would have been a great spot to show off the ASU James Turrell light sculpture. More shade would be helpful--no human can go there in July at noon. Why not add a small amphitheater space. Could it be a gathering place for music (buskers), a food truck festival, talks, poetry readings? Where could a group of people sit? (Where would people park--longer than 1 hour for an event.) How can people from Gammage events even access this park before or after shows? How could the park be lit at night to attract use? Perhaps with changing color lighting technology that produces a light show. (I'm skeptical that a coffee kiosk is a viable option. Same with a spray pad. Imagine dragging your stroller from a distant parking spot to the spray pad.)
8. The park is not a destination. How can it be? it is an odd shaped postage stamp size island in a sea of traffic. It is not safe to bring more people to the park as a destination. It is a pause on ones route of travel and should not be thought of as more than that. This does not mean it can't be a beautiful piece of nature that offers relief to the eye when mobile or to the body when passing through.
9. Better walkways/access for pedestrians would draw more people in. A coffee shop could also draw more activity.
10. Bounce ball courts
11. Adding more walkways for pedestrians would make it more appealing.
12. It is precariously positioned, being surrounded by fast-moving traffic on all sides.
13. Keep Tempe weird, no fountains, never maintained. More people at B-Park= more dead people hit by cars. Auto exhaust gives you cancer. Polk sculpture from ASU is the only thing there that has ever made any sense.
14. Fix traffic concerns Eastbound onto Apache
15. I feel positive about it being more attractive as one drives by. People cannot stop and go into the space. People cannot hold parties on that small space and there is no place to park
16. A beautiful garden would be great
17. More green, soften the landscaping. more plants to draw birds. blooming flowers
18. Some way to reduce the traffic sound while in the park
19. I think the park needs a face lift--the plants are aging or have died. it would be lovely to replant and "spruce up" the park
20. Move bus stop from Southside at 13th to the north side with a pull out
21. I saw the idea of a Kiosk in the plans... not a terrible idea, would be utilized by students for sure. A public platform or stage for people to host special events
22. I use the park daily now
23. Upgrade the landscape, new palm trees round the curve would be ok when others are removed
24. No monuments!!!! Dumb use of money. Maintenance
25. Don't think it needs to be activated--it serves now as a green spot where someone visiting ASU could stop between or before class. Should stay green--basically large landscape median, maybe vertical art viewable as you drive by speed would be ok
26. Better timing on lights allowing walking across
27. Bike and or pedestrian access would be great.
28. Add more flowering type plants, more drought resistant plants; better benches for sitting made of cooler material
29. If there is a water feature it should be sustainable and also used to water the plants. There should be a lot of native plants and shade trees. I also think public art is very important.
30. Remove the curve that merges Apache and Mill, make the roads meet at the proposed rotary or a normal traffic light. The curve is deadly to pedestrians since it's highway-scale on a surface street. Integrate that area into the park and with the Gammage Theater. It's just inaccessible because of the roads. Otherwise, just xeriscape it and put monumental sculptures since access is so hard.
31. More pleasant and safe passage way to Gammage and campus

32. It needs more and better maintenance. plantings should be current and well cared for. merely a general clean up and fix up and continued good care is all that is needed.
33. A splash pad! Keeping a shaded seated area. I like the public art idea on one of the plans. I like the cascading water feature. I like the coffee kiosk - if it was operated by a local business.
34. None
35. I actually never noticed that this was a park area until I saw this survey. I believe that easy access and the pull-in parking (maybe make it up to 45 minutes) plus more shade would make it a more useful space. I have no preference on the other proposed features. I think that my first choice would be the roundabout droplet concept because it appears to bring the park level below the street level with all the step-downs. And the stage area seems like it might be useful for meetings or maybe a small concert (but maybe there is plenty of room for that on campus already)
36. Safe pedestrian access would be the first requirement. From the plans I don't see that happening. If you have ever been there during afternoon rush hour you would realize that without a traffic light, pedestrian crossing would be absolutely impossible. As it is now, I have difficulty making a left onto 13th St. to get home. Shade would be lovely as well. An open concept that allows visibility so I would feel safe would also be important.
37. Nothing would draw me to the space, it is surrounded by speeding cars and soon a street car. It is not quiet or contemplative. You can't read a book there. It should just be well kept rose bushes that add color to the site as you drive by. Nothing high, so you can see Gammage and downtown Tempe.
38. More shade, a community garden
39. Shaded seating area.
40. See comments in Additional Comments section
41. Trees, green space, refreshments
42. sitting space low walls
43. A coffee kiosk or something else interactive.
44. A bike and pedestrian overpass avoiding the Mill/13th/Apache morass.
45. None
46. Raised footbridge connecting to Gammage lot, would be incredibly helpful, especially during show season.
47. Nothing. It is fine.
48. Farmers market
49. None, it is a highly utilized drive by--would not be wise or safe to use as a stopping point. Too much traffic during rush hour, many students use to access southern part of ASU campus.
50. Safe pedestrian crosswalks as speed reducers. Water.
51. pedestrian street
52. Don't mess w this as its good as it is. Why do u need this change? It doesn't generate revenue so don't fix what's not broken
53. Lighting would be one addition that I would consider. I would also incorporate a water feature with its own lighting so that at night the park is still inviting. A second feature that I would add would be place holding arches that mirrored the arches on Gammage. The arches would continue around to the sides of Birchett Park and then meet in the middle while sloping down so as to transform into the foundation of an amphitheater. The amphitheater would face Gammage auditorium, and the water feature would be a back drop to the outdoor stage/gathering space. The large field that would exist between the water feature and the auditorium would have a middle axis pathway of about 25' in width and made of differing sized light gray pavers. The path would be lined with native trees that would create a canopy above pedestrians so as to provide comfort to pedestrians during the summer. Past the trees would be open turf on either side which would then slope up to the base of the arches. The purposed tram would also come through this area on a track that bisected the axial pathway but would not pose any danger to people walking.
54. Stage shows might draw me in.

55. Community garden, a spot designed for mediation and calm in a chaotic and hectic Urban environment, fruit trees for an orchard type space, public art.
56. None. I like the park exactly the way it is.
57. Additional shade trees are always a nice addition to the City's open spaces and parks. A low fence or block wall along the Mill/Apache curve to keep kids from running into the normally speeding traffic might be nice for peace of mind and to make the park a little more peaceful/quiet.
58. I do not like the current configuration of the hardscape there - raised brick planter boxes and lots of concrete in a maze-like configuration that isolates and diminishes the space. I feel isolated in that area and don't like going in there by myself. I would like to see the space opened up more so people could see others in the park and get a better sense of space and greenery and safety.
59. I like the "Droplet" concept. I do not like roundabouts.
60. If you go with the seating/amphitheater be clear and decide is it a water feature or is it a performance space... it cannot be both. Also, people do not just sit around to look at a water feature so I would recommend a performance Space.... if that is the case, there needs to be some basic electricity for people to plug in an amp or speaker and play music... it would be really cool to program that in the evenings. Please do not do a roundabout. The ones in the neighborhood are already a disaster because people do not know how to use them and the confusion has lead to me almost getting into several accidents
61. Trees, shade, public art
62. It would be nice if it was a park for ASU students, given its proximity to ASU. I would think it would be something that young people could USE. For instance, a picnic area, a skatepark, a basketball or volleyball facility, etc.

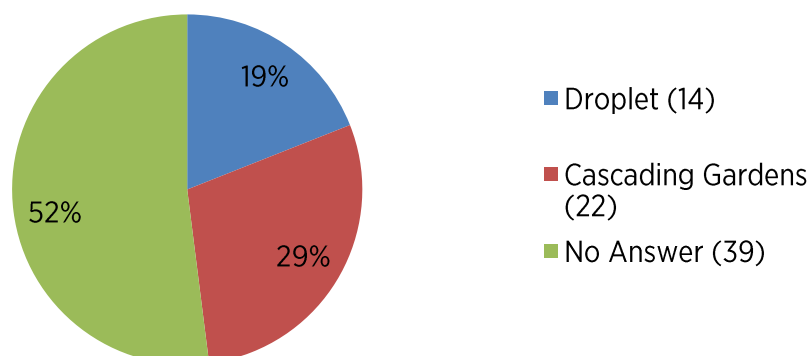
#### **4. How do you envision using Birchett Park?**

1. Gathering place,
2. I like it as it is.
3. This is not a space to be activated. It is an inaccessible odd piece of land in the middle of a very active and fast moving traffic situation. I envision it being used as a pause, not as a destination, not as an active space. It's best use is to be a quiet piece of nature...cleaned up, fixed up, but not greatly changed as the concept plans allude too. It's naive and short sighted to think of this park as an active destination for events or gatherings. It would be a huge safety issue and a traffic congestion nightmare. Allow it to be cleaned up, and to become an updated quiet and beautiful gesture to the Birchett family.
4. It is difficult to envision a highly used park at this location, primarily due to the heavy and dangerous vehicle traffic that surrounds it. I think it would be a cool location for food trucks, although parking will be a problem for those people not arriving by foot.
5. A neighborhood park. Better entrance to downtown Tempe, ASU- if they contribute to costs.
6. Part of walking
7. It seems like a good place to meet with groups for school.
8. Picnics, performances
9. Just a place to chill and go to special events.
10. Useless, sorry. I mean it is great to see green about us, but when it is dangerous to access the park (due to fast-moving traffic), a merely visual aspect, like the proposed signature artwork, is best. To actually USE the park, pedestrian walkways are needed. Only a fool would cross traffic mid-block to reach the park. Unfortunately, there are more than a few jaywalking fools in Tempe.
11. Walking there with kids. Coffee bar, peaceful space w/ gardens, some parking
12. Not related to people stopping and entering/exiting tiny park. the roundabout will save many lives and consume some of the tiny space. a wonderful way to better use some of the space
13. As a beautiful garden space to visit
14. Enhancing the existing space by incorporating more trees (shade), green areas, benches, lighting, less hardscape, more lushness

15. I would like to be able to chill in the park and hear less noise from the traffic. A nice green area
16. A green belt in the middle of so much asphalt and concrete
17. A Place to take a deep breath and get away from it all for a quick minute. Also a place to celebrate the City of Tempe
18. Just as is now. Leave it alone
19. Primarily as it is-update the landscape and walkway and leave it at that
20. Green space
21. Give us better shade for bikes waiting at intersection. Trees work just fine
22. Depends on what it looks like and which amenities in final design
23. I would like to see things like a skate park, or a community garden/orchard that was used more by adults (given its location).
24. I believe that I want the Park to remain as it is, some of the elements in one or more aspect of either concept designs, but generally, I favor refreshing the Park, possibly adding a view corridor to Gammage, and maybe some additional sidewalks but no monument, or iconic structures. I feel the park should remain a buffer to the Neighborhoods and a buffer from Downtown Mill Ave. ANY type of archway across apache is not needed. I'd love the space to get some new plants, trees, flowers and also be used passively and by Tempe Neighborhoods that can reach it on foot/bike. A programmable, fee-based, area is not needed. The Park is tired and run down, and it should not be, but it does not need a huge makeover.
25. I would continue to use it as a place to rest and sit, read, meditate, and to see it from my front window, where I like to see the trees, plants and birds.
26. I would like to get coffee and read/relax/picnic with friends and family. I would like there to be public art and possibly space to have public art classes for kids and families. I love the landscape design around the Turrel Air Apparent on ASU campus. A space that is sustainable, that emphasizes the beauty of desert plants and incorporates good design creates an inviting place to go to relax or participate in events.  
I would prefer a coffee shop but not a retail space unless it was all local arts and crafts. We have enough corporate stores on every corner.
27. Integrate with campus and get rid of the curve.
28. The idea of a coffee kiosk is appealing and might draw me in to have a coffee & linger rather than just passing through.
29. This park is so seldom used, it is difficult to entertain the park in use - though the renderings tend to make the location more of a 'draw' to people. Whatever the park is used for, it will be for a small group of people due to its size (less than a hundred perhaps?).
30. As a respite in the chaos. Using it visibly as well as physically walking through and sitting and enjoying the natural beauty as well as the neighborhood beauty surrounding.
31. A place to go relax with the family. A shady spot to stop on a bike ride. A place to cool off (if there was a water feature)
32. I believe this should be oriented more toward adult use since there is so much traffic in the surrounding areas.
33. I can see visiting it while walking the neighborhood.
34. Well the only time I would use it is to take a photo of Gammage or if my car breaks down around there and I have to wait for AAA.
35. I saw the plans, and I was hoping for something with significantly less grass and less wasting of water. I was hoping for more native plants and sustainable agriculture/landscaping.
36. To enjoy the Grady Gammage Auditorium. Possibly for coffee if a stand is available, however 13/30 minutes parking would limit that capability.
37. See comments in Additional Comments section
38. Place to sit and relax with friends with refreshments
39. As a gateway to campus/Gammage
40. As a shady refuge
41. As a quiet place to sit before heading to busier areas

42. I bike and commute by this "Park" daily and given the fact that it is an island in the road and has marginal pedestrian accessibility from the Gammage side I don't see much value in upgrading the park.  
The features I would like to see in all parks is a drinking fountain with bottle filling station and a bike repair station.
43. I am interested in the proposed features, would find an overhead footbridge, such as the ASU footbridge on University to be the most helpful feature that could be added, and a traffic roundabout to be the least helpful and most dangerous possibility that has been mentioned.
44. I hope less people fuss with stuff that is already just fine! Find things that need to be fixed like potholes or bad dips in the road.
45. I envision using Birchett Park when the city shuts down the Apache/Mill curve to cars and this park is no longer isolated from Gammage.
46. I cannot find a reason to use this park
47. Would rather see improvements to existing parks that Tempeans utilize, that are in need of repair.
48. As an articulator between surrounding neighborhoods and the ASU Gammage.
49. Use it more reasonably
50. The same. Sitting in the park w birds  
Hey since u didn't give the option for not liking both concepts let me leave the feedback here. What u smoking to think that below is a good idea. Circle w a couple of short term parking spots. Dumb
51. As an educational/relaxing/safe/and beautiful area for people to use and enjoy.
52. Mostly as a means to walk to Gammage for shows.
53. Community garden, a spot designed for meditation and calm in a chaotic and hectic Urban environment, fruit trees for an orchard type space, public art.  
Fruit trees for sure, maybe use it to show all the edible fruits and plants in Phoenix; a foraging garden
54. Driving by it and enjoying the green space.
55. It is a great place to pause and cool off on a pedestrian or bike commute between campus, downtown and my neighborhood over by Clark Park.
56. It depends. It could be anything from a simple green space as it is now with one consequence being the same minimized use as occurs now. But given access from and to Gammage, from and to the neighborhoods to the south and to the west, the park could become a more popular venue with broader uses and greater occupancy. I believe the first and biggest challenge here is to figure out connections from the park to the neighborhoods and to ASU.
57. Relaxing, reading the newspaper.
58. Something to walk through on the way to ASU/Gammage. A landmark entrance to downtown/Mill Ave
59. Passing through on the way to ASU
60. I will probably not use Birchett Park.

## 5. Which is your favorite concept?





**6. What are your favorite elements from either concept? Please rank from 1-12 with 1 being the top favorite and 12 the least favorite.**

**Favorites:**

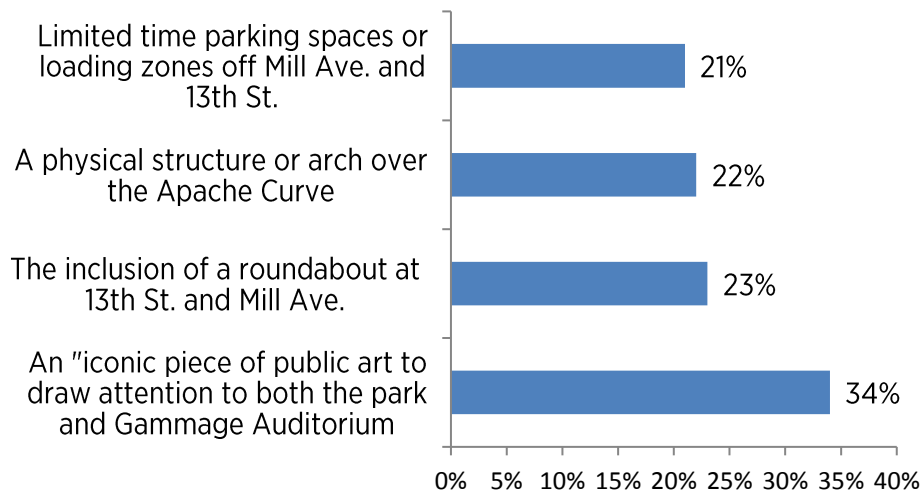
Solar Shade Canopy	1	(61% of top 3 answers)
Public Art	2	
Open Turf Area	3	
Water Features	4	
Seat Walls	5	
Event Space/Stage	6	
Open Plaza	7(tie)	
Water Runnel	7(tie)	
Coffee Shop/Retail Space	9	
Public Gateway Feature	10	
Spray Pad	11	
Stairs	12	

**Least Favorites:**

Coffee Shop	12	(51% of bottom 3 answers)
Spray Pad	11	
Event Space/Stage	10(tie)	
Water Runnel	10(tie)	
Water Features	8	
Stairs	7	
Public Gateway Feature	6	
Open Plaza	5(tie)	
Seating	5(tie)	
Public Art	3	
Open Turf Area	2	
Solar Shade Canopy	1	

<b>RANK</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL RESPONSES</b>
Coffee Shop	10	3	1	3	2	1	1	5	0	2	0	26	54
Open Plaza	6	3	4	8	8	4	2	0	1	0	2	10	48
Event Space/Stage	7	4	5	1	2	3	2	4	1	3	5	12	49
Solar Shade	17	8	8	3	3	3	1	3	1	0	0	7	54
Water Features	9	7	5	4	3	1	1	1	2	4	1	13	51
Stairs	2	1	3	7	3	8	2	6	0	2	4	11	49
Water Runnel	5	4	4	4	5	1	1	2	3	3	4	12	48
Seat Walls	5	7	11	7	4	3	3	2	1	4	0	10	57
Public Art	14	11	5	3	3	1	3	2	1	1	1	8	53
Public Gateway Features	8	2	3	7	1	4	5	5	3	1	2	13	54
Open Turf	9	4	10	4	6	3	4	2	3	0	2	7	54
Spray Pad	7	1	2	3	2	4	1	6	3	6	3	15	53

**7. Would you support the following (check all that apply):** \*100 responses total from 45 individuals



**8. Additional Comments:**

1. Definitely don't like the roundabout idea. Would prefer a coffee cart rather than a permanent structure, not crazy about gateway monument idea, prefer natural tree canopy to solar shades.
2. A loading area would be essential for musicians and performance events. I'm skeptical of a roundabout at that busy intersection--would require years of training for Tempe residents to use. Scary! I feel strongly that the City needs to involve an artist in the design team for this park BEFORE anything else happens. The renderings are competent yet lack the surprises that come from artistic interventions. The artist can work with the design elements and take these ideas to a higher level. The movement of people to and from this park needs to be thoughtfully addressed. A small limited parking area works for daily use but not for events at this park. I would hope to see community programming for events. What if people could reserve to use it for a small performance, a community meeting, a park and recs class in art, or dance, or yoga. Connect it to the city classes.
3. A roundabout might be nice, however, here's a novel idea... leave the park alone and spend taxpayers money more wisely. There seem to be no real issues at hand other than needing to spend a budget. Re-open a public pool or provide a shaded playground at Mitchell Park. Not enough parking to support a spray pad, event space or coffee kiosk. No reason for a shade structure because there's not enough use to support it. The existing park provides a nice splash of open/green space and is good as-is.
4. Please don't make this look like Disneyland. Most people who pass by this park are on their way to work or school and it won't attract them at all. The homeless people in our neighborhood will probably really like it and be drawn to the area which would be bad for us who live on thirteenth and fourteenth streets. This green space is great just as it is. A roundabout for the 13th St/Mill Ave. would be greatly appreciated. We have already had an issue with "Event Space" at the Graduate Hotel which brought really loud music into our neighborhood. Please don't do that to us. Please don't add anything that will waste water. We live in a desert. Those people who like to see water can go home or to Town Lake.
5. I think the City needs to be realistic about the amount of people that will use this park. It is very poorly positioned and seems to be a byproduct of the Apache Curve more than anything else. It is not a convenient pass-through point for pedestrians to any destination in the area.
6. Why palm trees? Too much water consumption. Why not Palo Verde or Acacia? Could TPSS be put in roundabout. Nicely decorated with local art? Frank Lloyd Wright Statue?
7. While water features are pretty, they're a large waste of water. ASU is striving for a more sustainable impact, so if this park is trying to highlight/reflect Tempe & ASU I think a more eco-friendly approach would be well-received!
8. Great ideas for a great space.

9. A roundabout in this location is a death trap for pedestrian traffic and a danger for cyclists too. Irish roundabouts move vehicles well, but NOT foot traffic. ASU can put up their own "iconic" art on their own property. This is not the gateway to the downtown, University is the gateway and anyone who can't see that needs eye surgery. Why would anyone want to look up at an arch overhead while driving on Apache curve? You will need to be dodging the stupid trolley, avoiding people crossing the street mid block, and getting ready to stop at the traffic light. I want to remind people on the Council, the Mayor and city staff that the neighborhoods adjacent to this park are filled with CITIZENS WHO VOTE. You are currently building a trolley system without sufficient funding. Just because you are going to cut open the streets, it is not reason to drop this un-needed, un-wanted, unfunded project on the people of this town. I am so mad that this farce of a proposal has used untold HOURS of staff time, untold THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS for multiple renderings, and until last night, NO NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT. Tell (councilmember) I will be calling him, repeatedly.
10. None of the ideas make sense and don't appear to have been thoroughly thought through in a sustaining manner.
  1. a roundabout would create an insane traffic jam in all directions. the traffic already backs up from 13th street to broadway, from university around the curve to college and even at times to rural road, and on 13th heading west, between the hours of 4:00 - after 6:00 pm. and the morning experiences congestion as well. it would not be safe for people walking towards campus or biking to maneuver through the roundabout. traffic is, and will continue to be a growing problem around campus and using a roundabout to slow traffic does not make sense in this location.
  2. there is no reason to add parking in this location. as stated above, this space should not be activated. it would only add to the traffic issues and concerns that i have already addressed. it does not make sense. if pictures want to be taken here a couple times a year to capture gammage in the background, they can walk.
  3. a physical structure or an arch over the apache curve would only add to the congestion in this area. and it could also be a visual distraction for people driving in an already overly dense area. the physical structure of gammage is there, dominating the curve in a beautiful way. why would anyone want to try to compete with this? and the apache curve is not a gateway location. coming across the mill ave bridge heading south is a gateway to tempe. when you're driving around the apache curve you are well into tempe and there is nothing that calls out gateway at that location. either of these features would only add distraction, create confusion, and offer nothing positive to the community.
  4. gammage IS the iconic piece of art. It draws attention as a landmark for the community. Yes, it is on the asu campus but it speaks to the community. there is no need for iconic art in this area. Save the money and use it in other parts of town that really need art. Please take care of the current park. Save some money (and use it in other locations where it is much needed) by simply beautifying it, cleaning it up, replacing some of the trees and shrubs as needed. Make it a lovely quiet space that can be experienced as one drives by or as one walks through on there way somewhere else. It is not asking to be made a destination, or to be activated in any way. Don't add to the congestion of the area by creating something that doesn't want to be there. Allow it to be simple, beautiful, green, and with plants and materials to attract butterflies and birds. This doesn't take much. Allow gammage to remain the icon that it is. Don't try to compete with it or shift attention away from it. And if you want to mark a gateway to tempe, do it somewhere else where it makes sense. Not in the middle of a busy, fast moving street. I do not support either of the concepts presented. I think that the monies used to explore these ideas to date have not been spent well. Plans and sections can look good on paper but they are not often reality. If you live near the park and experience that area daily, ones mindset would be different. There is the reality of the traffic and overall congestion of bikes, skate boards, buses, and people...just too much going on. Please use our money well and be mindful and conscious with your choices. Thank you.
11. There is not sufficient parking or access to this space. It should not be used for a high population density space as there is not the needed resources to get the people in and out safely. Leave it the way is and plant more flowers or a garden
12. I would be concerned with pedestrian flow. I like the idea of the roundabout but do worry about traffic increasing

13. No roundabout. Make this a This was okay in the past, when traffic was slower and our population was smaller. But it is a dinosaur now. I rarely see anyone over there. And why would they be? Surrounded by fumes and noise of traffic, who would want that? Time to drop the "park" designation and relocate the water-using plants. Parking would be dangerous, due to ingress and egress issues, or that would be a good use. Put a giant sculpture of hands shaking, of people dancing, of someone studying (prob with a laptop, as books are not as much used) or a colored- glass moving sculpture, like Andrew (? last name) does, and light it only with solar. Passive use is best.
14. This is not for residents, it is for ASU. Why not a oasis of greenery, beauty and contemplation- A garden. Extend the neighborhood rather than downtown. Leave it as is and plant more flowers and trees.
15. I have lived close to the park and walk by every day. It is inconceivable that stopping or parking could be included in places. No coffee shop because it will just take up space and demand more space for services such as delivery of stuff and removal of trash. It would be better to make it more attractive to safely driving around
16. beautiful green space with flowers/trees/and a garden
17. Again preserve and replace - give the park a face lift. We need more green space!
18. I'm 50/50 about the round about, but I think that would mitigate the accidents on northbound traffic heading towards the curve and could be a good thing Parking would be a plus for anyone who wanted to visit, as it is not possible with all the permitted parking in the surrounding areas. I would consider a pedestrian path/walkway/bridge at the top of the stairs in the cascading design crossing over Apache.. I can see students utilizing this park more and the kiosk if it was part of the path to ASU.. Right now the students mostly avoid the park and walk around it.  
Also consider statues or things that can pay homage to some of the things that make Tempe, Tempe.. or Maybe big letters "TEMPE" on the Grass somewhere.. people like to take pictures in front of things like that.. and that would promote the city better. The one thing I don't like about the current park is there is so many hiding places. I've seen people do a lot of things in the park and camp out there as well. I hope the new design inhibits some of the bad behavior.
19. Just forget messing with this park
20. raise elevation view from 13th street space is too small to actuate as event space and streets to busy for it to become a "destination" park space
21. Again, my preference is for a refreshed park, more trees, flowers and turf, and additional sidewalks. Possibly a better viewing spot for Gammage and a passive use profile. Ideally, remaining a quiet buffer to the neighborhoods.  
Although I actually like roundabouts, I feel in this location it would be less safe for peds/bikes since the crosswalks are not signalized and further away from corners, and I feel like bikes would be in the roundabout and in the crosswalks. I would have like to have seen roundabouts on College and Encanto and College and Alameda, but not at Mill and 13th. Again, my preference is for a refreshed park, more trees, flowers and turf, and additional sidewalks. Possibly a better viewing spot for Gammage and a passive use profile. Ideally, remaining a quiet buffer to the neighborhoods.
22. Take care of the park! If you are not going to maintain the park then plant self-maintaining vegetation. A beautiful flowering spot would be ideal
23. Should not be a priority for our limited dollars... this is a solution looking for a problem. Please leave street configuration alone-works fine. Water features are difficult to maintain- Costly. Put this type of thing in a real park. Don't add hard surface-keep what's there or add to it
24. Want green gathering space. Place to sit, walk, and take children. ASU is biggest dog pm block, do not create additional space for ASU to utilize/schedule/dominate. replant and re-landscape it make prettier
25. nooooo parking
26. Get rid of the Apache Curve. Get rid of the Apache Curve.
27. While visually pleasing on the design concept, I do not support inclusion of a water feature in arid Tempe. This would be an unfortunate use of one of our most precious, most limited resources. The city should serve as a model for responsible water use.

28. I like the park the way it is and would only recommend that some new plants, both flowering and drought resistant, be planted. I also would like some updated benches. I look at this park every day from my front window and appreciate the park very much the way it is. I recommend that NO Roundabout be placed. Roundabouts work well where there is vehicle traffic, but at the Mill and 13th Street intersection, there are also many pedestrians, bikers and skateboarders to have one. A roundabout would be unsafe at that location. There would be too much "guessing" to try to see who should cross the street next. It is better to use improved stoplights. The left-turn lights have helped, but they would be useful in the north-south direction as well. In one part of the park, the TPSS could be placed. Maybe further in the future, the walls around the TPSS could be painted by local artists, if approved by the neighborhoods involved
29. Please build sustainably and please support local arts and crafts.
30. I don't believe the idea of a roundabout is a good fit in this location. Mill Avenue has a great deal of north and south bound traffic at 13th (Apache) street. The argument that a roundabout would be a traffic calming is false, it would become a giant blender of angry drivers and most likely a cause of accidents as well. The argument that a roundabout would act as traffic abatement is false as where would the existing Mill traffic, north and south, be routed if downtown be rerouted, through residential neighborhoods? A round about is just a bad fit for this location without impacting traffic flow. Also the surrounding properties would be impacted by having to donate/sell land sufficient to accommodate the extra space needs of a roundabout (SW and NW corners especially). How will this park renovation tie into the new 'Trolley' that is planned if at all? My understanding (or misunderstanding) is that the Trolley route follows Mill avenue south of downtown Tempe and makes the sweep to the east into Apache Blvd. The Trolley path will sweep right by Birchett Park (again, my understanding or misunderstanding). It would seem some form of having the two features (Park & Trolley) be somehow meshed in the overall design - or perhaps the big proposed arch features are merger of the two programs? I am not in favor of the Trolley, but from what I understanding it is still planned to happen as there is specific funding available for it. I think expanding the existing bus routes, the 'orbit' circulator buses and conventional buses, would be a better use of funding.
31. NO changes should be made other than update and maintain the park as it is. There is already too much going on in the area, too much traffic, and more than enough beautiful features including Gammage and nice homes. Trying to make this park into something more is a wasted effort. No parking is convenient if it becomes a destination, and a roundabout will be a disaster considering the amount of traffic a rush hour times. If maintained well it is a wonderful space for all to enjoy. We do not need to attempt to make it into something that is not needed and will ruin what is already there. Many "destinations" already exist in the area.
32. I do not like the roundabout. This seems WAY TOO DANGEROUS with the amount of bike and pedestrian traffic there is in this area - they are unpredictable & don't always follow the proper road safety.
33. I do not think anything needs to be done with this park. There is NO OPTION for nothing to be done. It seems as if it has already been decided to upgrade this park so this check list for comments is biased. We have curbing on Scottsdale Road that is crumbling and there is no money for repairs or even better complete replacement. I think it can be made very attractive but will not waste my time considering options when I do not believe it should be a priority for the city. Do you see the biggest beneficiaries will be the residents? This is a useless expenditure of City Funds. It is a small area next to one of the busiest traffic corridors in Tempe. Keep it maintained with current grass, trees, etc., but do not waste funds here. Spend the money on other Tempe Neighborhood Parks in desperate need of upgrading and support.
34. I am unlikely to go in the park, but I drive by it. I would really like to see: - the roundabout implemented-- the isolated sides of the park (where the Polygon Landform Graphic or water feature is proposed) have more landscape than it currently does. The center of the park may be adequate as it is other than needing more shade. The majority of my input is oriented toward beautification since I am unlikely to be a park user.

35. Trees better than a canopy. Using water features just for show is a bad example to set for the community, we are trying to get people to conserve water and using water features just lets people think that water is cheap and it's OK to use it for things. I am absolutely NOT in favor of a roundabout at that intersection for a variety of reasons. - people mostly speed in that area and I don't think a traffic circle is going to slow them down appreciably-I come from an area of the country where enormous amounts of money were spent to take out traffic circles in places where there was high volume and high speeds. There were just too many accidents. I think roundabouts work well within the neighborhoods as traffic calming and getting rid of stop signs, but arterial streets are different. A large volume road would require a fairly large circle to work. I don't think you have the space here to do that. Have you ever negotiated a traffic circle in the Boston area? Dangerous and scary. We would have to do some sort of educational campaign for Arizona drivers to figure out how to use such a circle safely. Without a traffic light at that intersection, access to Birchett will be exceedingly limited on foot. So a destination park would end up creating more traffic in the area since the only safe way to access the park would be by car and parking in the new spaces you'd create. It appears from your designs that the gateway art project into our neighborhood on the west side of Mill on 13th street would be sacrificed. A pedestrian crossing is shown through that median strip right about where the sculpture stands.
36. Definitely NO Roundabout. There should be no gateway over Apache over there either. If you want to build a gateway on Apache put it down at the canal when you enter and exit Tempe into Mesa. Try maintaining the landscaping and see what an improvement that would be before wasting money on these crazy, over blown ideas.
37. Are these renovations going to be done in a sustainable way? I don't think that can be answered through this form, but it's important to me that what we are creating is sustainable and that we create it sustainably. It doesn't seem to be the case that it's sustainable. It's a small park that I rarely see anyone at, and I understand that ASU wants attention but that's not a good enough reason to waste materials to me. I will happily support the work of a local artist for this park. I would not support a random artist from some other community simply because that person may be rich or famous. "Iconic" to me sounds like it's expensive and likely not from here. We can uplift the community itself for much cheaper I'm assuming, and there are community-wide benefits. I would love for this park to be a green oasis figuratively and literally, not just another way to waste water. That area is already congested and confusing for many, and people speed a lot through there. I'd be worried for someone's safety if parking spots were put there.
38. Noticing that the plans includes multiple water features. This seems excessive in our climate. One would be nice - placed in the center. The two defining features could be changed to architectural lighting features complimenting the iconic FLW features of Gammage.
39. Could you disregard my survey results/comments made yesterday and replace with the following comments? I think that the park is fine "as is" except that more shade trees could be added in both the main part of the park and the road separated sections on either side. The usage of the park itself is not important to me in particular, but I think that trees are important so feel that any design should involve more trees. What is important to me is the combination of pedestrian, bicycle and traffic usage in that area (which is already complicated and very important to ASU and downtown access for all neighborhoods in Tempe). I would like to see more features that facilitate that usage. An overhead bridge to support bike and pedestrian use would be a very good addition to the design (but not currently proposed). If an overhead bridge were added, then the roundabout would be a good addition to go along with it. If an overhead bridge is not added, then I'm told that the roundabout would cause issues with people biking and walking across the intersection at the proposed roundabout site (not sure what traffic studies have been done) I think that the temporary parking/pullouts just add complication to that area ... so think they should be removed. I think they are generally unsafe for everyone using the area. My primary use of that is area is in my car two to three times per month. I am unlikely to use the park itself regardless of what is done, so pedestrian, bike, and vehicle traffic in that area is my main concern.

40. Roundabout is a terrible idea. Too much pedestrian traffic! Stop lights and walk signals are needed. Parking/loading is bad, too. Area is too congested as it is. Seems like a lot of trouble to turn a public space into something that appears to be an accessory to Gammage. I don't think Tempe should use funds to remodel a public space to benefit ASU.
41. A round about I think you mean a crash about the single most cause of traffic accidents. This is a stupid idea and I do not support it.
42. Not a fan of the roundabout; I think the intersection sees WAY too much traffic, and bikes and pedestrians would be at a huge disadvantage—roundabouts inherently don't work well with high levels of bikes and pedestrians. Water features should be placed close to where people can interact with them, i.e. they do not belong in the areas inaccessible to pedestrians. Larger art would be more appropriate for those spaces. It definitely does not need a spray pad... maybe somewhere to dip your feet. A roundabout at a major intersection such as 13th and Mill is a horrible idea. This would cause infinite traffic issues where currently no issues exist. I urge you to abandon this idea completely and to not use tax payer money to create major problems. If there is public interest in revamping the park, that is one thing but creating a traffic change that will certainly lead to a bottleneck and put both drivers and bicyclists' lives at risk should not even be under consideration. In the 13 years I have lived in the Maple/Ash/Farmer/Wilson neighborhood I have never seen an accident at this heavily trafficked intersection but this would definitely change that. Please leave the existing traffic control elements as they are.
43. In the ranking area it says 'Coffee Shop/Retail space' in the accompanying photo it says 'coffee/tea kiosk' these are not three same thing. Which is it? There should not be stairs, the park should remain accessible to ADA users. Any water feature, of any kind, it's ludicrous. WE LIVE IN A DESERT! Seat walls will be too hot to sit on most of the time. Let me guess, this is from a design company from the east coast? A roundabout at 13th and Mill is a disastrous concept. North/south traffic on mill is a nightmare. People live west of mill and need to make that left. With a traffic circle they'd just be sitting yielding to oncoming traffic, or darting through with wild abandon. How are pedestrians and bikes supposed to navigate this death trap? Here's an idea, cancel TRUMPS trolley, leave it alone and put a bike lane southbound on mill connecting to Broadway!
44. Keep Gammage parking free and you won't need to add spaces for cars. There are plenty of other empty lots to develop that aren't in such a congested area. And a roundabout as the gateway to the neighborhood west of Mill and 13th sounds insane. As for adding kiosks and other revenue generating features, it seems pretty redundant with Mill Avenue and lakeside business nearby. Why make an already congested corner more dangerous and impossible?
45. N/S traffic by car and bus along Mill and Rural in North Tempe is quite bad, and may get worse with street car. Please consider traffic effects before adding a roundabout. As a cyclist I am not 100% sure how I would navigate a roundabout.
46. Both a roundabout and parking spaces would be dangerous and cause confusion within the area. Drivers are already confused by the Gammage Curve as it is, but adding a roundabout would not only cause more accidents; vehicular, pedestrian, and bicycle, but also slow down traffic in an area where traffic issues are already a problem.
47. I do not support any of these changes to the Park!!!! These proposals are garbage. None of these are good for our city and we're probably drawn up by someone who isn't from here. Stop with all this and just let this Park be. -there is a lot of traffic noise in this location which makes it an unpleasant place to be.-it seems money could be better spent somewhere else to enhance more pleasant location.-try to temporarily activate this space with a coffee cart and some sea
48. The roundabout will not work here. Because there is a traffic signal just a short distance north of the roundabout, northbound traffic will queue into the roundabout and impede the natural continuous flow concept of the roundabout. Please don't try it.
49. I use the Mill Ave/13th St intersection daily. I think a roundabout would be a huge mistake because of the high pedestrian/bicycle volume from students. They don't even obey traffic laws with lights, they very often ride their bicycles the wrong way, they will abuse the roundabout even more and totally gum up traffic during rush hour. Instead, keep the traffic signal and install a left turn signal for northbound Mill Avenue.

50. Please DO NOT include a roundabout. This would be very dangerous. There is a lot of foot traffic going to and from the neighborhood to ASU. There is a lot of traffic at rush hour times as well. Please do not take away the traffic light. I feel there would be many more accidents. Please consider putting the monies towards a park which citizens already utilize that needs improvements. I feel this park is not utilized at all. It is not in a neighborhood, it is on a busy thoroughfare. I don't see people stopping there, when they could go to a nicer, quieter park in a neighborhood or down to the beach park for events. This is a "drive-by" park. There are many more parks which are more badly need of repair. I drive by there multiple times a day and never see anyone there using the park.
51. Pedestrian crosswalks, if a physical structure is going to be built, then it should be also a bridge for pedestrians.
52. Please leave well enough alone. Don't u think city of Tempe is torn up enough?
53. The two roundabouts on 9th Street should be clear reasons why a roundabout is a really bad idea. I do not support any changes to Birchett Park at this time. This area is a bottleneck for traffic and I don't think any of these plans address the fact that this is still a small park in the middle of a busy intersection. Not a fun place to visit. Just keep it as the nice green space that it is. Add some flowers or something.
54. I do not like the idea of temporary parking or the coffee/retail space. The park serves best as a pedestrian accessed park (plenty of drive in parks in the city already, shame to paste limited open space on more pavement for cars). Retail and coffee seem to be well covered in the area by existing shops. A water feature would be awesome, especially a small splash pad to serve the passing pedestrians in the summer months. Love the idea of public art but in reality it almost always comes out weird or way too expensive given the realized benefits (unless you get the person who does the tile work on the irrigation risers that is great public art).
55. I do not like either of the two plans. They are overwrought, full of bells and whistles - the work of a team that did not ask the people closest to the park what they would like to see and do in the park. These are creations sent down from on high without appropriate interaction with real potential users of the park so that the plan could evolve organically into a project of substance. Makes me think of Robert Moses. On the other hand, there are concepts and pieces that it would serve us well to hold on to for future planning. Make the road on both sides of Mill passing the park below grade to diminish noise and slow traffic. Or alternatively create a speed platform passing the park on both sides to slow traffic. How would pedestrians cross if there were to be a traffic circle? It looks like there are cross walk options slightly removed from the traffic circle entry points. Would these be signalized using something like a Hawk installation? I would love to develop this park into a more wonderful and easier to use amenity, but I would like to keep it open and green. If it were up to me, the first thing would be removing that ugly, scary, dated maze of concrete and brick so people and activities aren't hidden. Replace these with plenty of trees and plantings, grass and maybe a hillock like there used to be on the corner of University and Mill before Centerpoint was completed. Minimal seating and ADA access paths. Maybe some shade structures, not massive. Maybe solar. No parking and (probably) no monumental sculpture. "Pork chops" should be covered with trees - let this be the entrance statement for our most passed by park in Tempe. Make the statement that Tempe is about sustainability with an urban canopy. No desert or hardscape here - more green. Highlight Gammage by creating access to it. Maybe ASU will figure out some welcoming gesture for neighbors to access the beautiful green space on the east side of Mill and be a connection to the neighborhoods, should they be so inclined. Although this has been a discouraging first step, I am psyched about the possibilities for a Maple Ash Neighborhood park. It would be wonderful to share visions and challenges and possibilities with neighbors. It might even be a great place for the splash pad we lost in Tempe Beach Park, but that all depends on the group process and the costs involved. I don't think we should or need to spend a million dollars on this. I hope this project does not go away. We have a long list of parks we need to bring up to code and improve. Birchett Park isn't close to being in the top tier of the neediest, partly because it is underused and has poor accessibility in the first place. There are major challenges inherent in this task, but right now it is a wasted opportunity.



56. No,no
57. Birchett Park seems unnecessary, because it is already a green space. Put some picnic tables and benches there, and call it good. It is an unnecessary use of funds. It is an extremely busy intersection, and is not a relaxing place to be.
58. Please get rid of as much turf as possible, replacing it with native and low-water grasses. No one wants to hang out in a roundabout so I would focus more on how to use the space as a corridor to ASU and DT Tempe, because it is much harder to design a roundabout that will draw people to come to stay and hang out.
59. Thoughts on Birchett Park: After looking at the Birchett Park proposals, I think it best to discard most of them. 1. We have a monument on 13th Street to announce the Maple-Ash neighborhood. Another one is not needed. 2. I believe that parking for performances will occur in the adjacent neighborhoods. (The 15/30 minute areas will of course not be adequate.) 3. This is a busy and complex intersection which may not be immediately understood by drivers. Already there are non-regular traffic signals. If there is interest in upgrading this park I suggest research on the initial planning documents. Are the roses particular varieties appreciated by Mrs Birchett? Are there modern strains that would serve the purpose better? Perhaps a modern outlook is a good idea. ASU has some landscaping features that combine in a minimalist way plants with different growth habits which might inspire a new look. Improved pedestrian access might be another goal. By this I mean dealing with the traffic and eliminating uneven walkways and changes in grade. In short don't make major changes in a quiet neighborhood park. It is a restful area in a busy part of town. Improve access, update horticultural aspects, and leave behind ideas that increase traffic and parking in nearby neighborhoods.

## Emails

1. **October 18, 2017** - Please leave Birchett park the way it is. It makes a great buffer between residences and the traffic around Gammage.
2. **October 22, 2017** - I live at 1170 S. Mill, where trolley construction is underway just outside my house. Burchett Park is nice as it is. I can't see any benefit coming from adding an amphitheater that will attract more traffic and noise to the area. The other features seem fine. But do we really need another public venue right across the street from the Gammage Center?? City Planners must have anticipated opposition, since I got the notice about a public meeting either the day of or after the meeting--I don't know for sure because I was traveling. I wonder if residents were given any advanced notice besides this postcard?
3. **October 25, 2017** - To my neighbors, friends and colleagues, My apologies if you get more than one copy of this email! There was a meeting October 17 to present draft plans for a proposed revitalization of Birchette Park, a Tempe city park adjacent to the Maple Ash Neighborhood. I had always assumed that this was our neighborhood park. Neighbors in Maple Ash and nearby neighborhoods were not consulted about its redevelopment. The three-acre park can only be accessed safely from the corner of Mill and 13th Street. It has always been underutilized because it is surrounded by the busy thoroughfares directly west of Gammage Auditorium. The park is actually in the middle of Mill Avenue. Two different designs were created without the benefit of input from neighbors. Each design has two iterations: one with a traffic circle at Mill and 13th Street and the same design without a traffic circle. The draft plans were put together by outside consultants with input from ASU, Valley Metro (the streetcar track will be in the street adjacent to the park) and an unspecified in size or participants focus group. Here is a link to the plans for the park: <http://www.tempe.gov/home/showdocument?id=55163>. And here is a link to an online survey to weigh in on the development plans: <http://www.tempe.gov/city-hall/community-services/parks/birchett-park> - The comment period closes October 29 so respond quickly! Below, taken from the survey webpage, are the guidelines for creation of the designs. establishing a monument gateway feature; creating programmable space; constructing formalized pedestrian access. Also noted on the webpage is that "this project is in the design phase and no funds are allocated for construction at this time. Once the park plan is finalized, funding options and an overall construction timeline will be discussed." After mulling the designs over for several days and speaking with others about them, I have decided that I will not support either design without substantial change. I am disturbed by a process that did not include neighborhood input in visioning and creation of a plan. This is an enormous misstep for a city that is getting a lot right when it comes to keeping residents affected by projects in their area aware and involved. I was personally unable to use the format provided by the city to register my thoughts about changes to the park. I resisted participation in a survey that felt manipulative to me when it was first presented; we were asked to fill it out when it was first presented on October 17. A colleague weighed in on why the survey is problematic in an email today. I want to share Ron's thoughts, and links, with you. "Please find a link for the forum relativeto changes in Birchett Park...BEWARE ... this is a push poll! 'A push poll is an [interactive marketing](#) technique, most commonly employed during [political campaigning](#), in which an individual or organization attempts to manipulate or alter prospective voters' views/beliefs under the guise of conducting an [opinion poll](#).'" In this case the only presented options in the poll are changes to the park - not leaving it as it is. We will have to use the comment box to register that opinion." I personally plan to contact the persons listed as recipients of the survey on the webpage and city councilmembers more directly, probably using an unrestricted email format. MY COMMENTS 1. I am concerned that Maple Ash was not included in the planning process. The guiding principles may have very little to do with what we would like to see in our park. 2. I am concerned about there being less than two weeks to respond to the survey from its introduction. 3. Unless the 6 to 8 short-term parking spots on the south and the west side of park are considered "constructing formalized pedestrian access," the topic of pedestrian access was not discussed by the consultant. This is one of the top problems regarding Birchett Park! 4. I hope to continue to see green space including shrubbery, rose bushes, flower beds and trees, trees, trees! 5. Throw in some low-key pedestrian amenities with minimized hardscape and non-monumental art. 6. Residents need an entirely separate series of discussions on whether to create a traffic circle at Mill and 13th. How will pedestrians navigate crossing Mill or 13th? How will this be safe for bicyclists and other modes of transportation? There is some skepticism about this potential part of the plans. 7 15-minute parking adjacent to the park seems like a bad idea. There is too much happening in this area, and weird parking just adds to the complexity, confusion and potential dangers. 8.

Why think about a hardscape path around the perimeter of the park? This does not feel like an ideal stroll to me right next to fast, heavy traffic. As a nod to ADA requirements, it doesn't become any more pleasant and leisurely. Surely a path through the park would work better. 9. Can we talk about more and improved pedestrian access to the park? 10. Can we discuss traffic calming on the dangerous and seemingly high-speed curve? 11. Monumental sculpture as a "gateway" to downtown is an insult to what is closer – the gateways to the south and west neighborhoods. 12. Use of monumental sculptural features as a "photo framing" mechanism for the parents of new ASU graduates should be accommodated on campus. 13. Please keep this park a neighborhood park with the emphasis on green space and trees. A Birchett family member attended the October 17 meeting. He spoke of Guess Birchett and how dismayed she would be at the thought of these plans. Others also remembered the "bird lady" and her 202 E. 7th Street home aviaries. He talked about the things Mrs. Birchett cherished and what the tribute of a city park with the family's name had meant to her – preserving the city's flora and fauna. There was a heartfelt round of applause when he finished.

4. **October 29, 2017** - Feedback for Bircher Park: A roundabout will create safety concerns for bikers and pedestrians, alike. Short term parking will encourage people to drive instead of taking alternate transportation, and will further increase Tempe's traffic issues. Tempe should keep park as is, minimizing cement, and invest this money in schools rather than continue to increase taxes. This has been proven by Daley Park, where \$Ms of dollars being spent have not improved the parks aesthetics nor amenities. If money is already allocated to parks, spend this money on maintenance.